

Fallsburg, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today toured the Murray's Chicken facility in South Fallsburg with owner Murray Bresky. The congressman talked with the plant's management and workers about his efforts to create jobs for residents of Sullivan County. He emphasized the important role of small business in restoring the economy and reiterated the need for middle class tax relief. As a strong proponent of small businesses, agriculture and local infrastructure development, Hinchey has focused extensively on promoting economic development in the Catskill region. The visit to Murray's Chicken was the congressman's first since he mediated and resolved a recent issue with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) during which the facility was shut down for a brief time.

"Murray's Chicken is one of the most important local employers and businesses in this area, and we are proud that this local business continues to operate in South Fallsburg, offering high quality, naturally-raised poultry. In light of that, I spent many hours working to resolve the recent issue between the USDA and Murray's, knowing that every day the plant was closed, local workers and their families were losing money from their paychecks," said Hinchey. "Over 350 people make their living at this facility, and in this difficult economy, we should be promoting small businesses rather than straining them further. That's why I remain committed to doing everything I can to protect the jobs we have in our local community while pushing to attract and create new opportunities. In Sullivan County, that starts with middle class tax relief, supporting small businesses, being more innovative about the way we pursue agricultural opportunities, and by delivering strategic federal investments for infrastructure to lay the groundwork for economic development and reduce the burden on local taxpayers."

Hinchey was a leading proponent of the Making Work Pay Tax Credit, which cut taxes for 95 percent of working families. The congressman is also supporting an extension of tax credits for middle income earners, but said that now is the wrong time to provide new tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires that could only be paid for by borrowing from China. Specifically, the congressman said he would oppose new tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000 a year.

Hinchey also discussed a series of initiatives he supported to help small businesses create jobs. The congressman voted to create the Small Business Lending Fund to extend \$300 billion in loans to small employers, and voted to pass the HIRE Act, which provides tax exemptions and credits for every new worker a company hires. Hinchey also worked to help small businesses provide health care benefits with a tax credit to cover 35 percent of health insurance premiums.

The congressman is also working directly with Fallsburg Town Supervisor Steve Vegliante to ensure that the Town of Fallsburg remains eligible to receive infrastructure investments through USDA Rural Development. Hinchey has been working with the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to fix a recent USDA rule change that is preventing certain local governments, including Fallsburg, from accessing millions of dollars in loans and grants through the Water and Waste Disposal program

Hinchey has worked to deliver a number of critical federal investments that are helping to move Sullivan County's economy forward. Hinchey was instrumental in securing \$800,000 in funding move forward the construction of the Southern Catskills Red Meat Processing Facility, which is expected to create over 50 jobs in the local agriculture industry. The congressman also recently announced that two USDA Rural Development grants were moving forward to help promote expanded broadband access and community wind energy development in Sullivan County.